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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL GENERAL RESOURCES TO FUND THE APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMME**

Nicaragua

SUMMARY

The present document contains a recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme of Nicaragua for which the balance of approved general resources is not sufficient to fund the programme up to the approved programme period. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve additional general resources in the amount of $119,056 for 1996 to achieve the objectives of the country programme as originally approved by the Board.

* E/ICEF/1996/9.

** In order to meet documentation deadlines, the present document was prepared before aggregate financial data were finalized. Final adjustments, taking into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995, will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43 and Add.1).

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1. The current country programme for Nicaragua covering the period 1992-1996 was approved by the Executive Board in 1992 with an allocation of $5,000,000 from general resources and $9,812,000 in supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1992/P/L.17). As a result of mutual consultations between the Government and UNICEF, there was agreement to accelerate implementation during 1994 for key activities related to achievement of the mid-decade goals. In 1994, therefore, the general resources ceiling was increased by $289,000.

2. The additional funds were used to accelerate achievement of universal salt iodization; to procure high-potency vitamin A capsules for distribution to one third of all Nicaraguan children under five years of age during the national health weeks; to support the control of diarrhoeal diseases programme through the procurement of oral rehydration salts and social mobilization activities to establish 80 oral rehydration units; and to train personnel in hospitals selected for the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

3. The general resources planning level in 1996 has been set at $850,000. Therefore, an additional $119,056 from general resources is required for the remaining period of the programme.

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4. The additional funds requested will be used to support health and nutrition initiatives under way for the achievement of the mid-decade health goals. More specifically, the funds will be used to (a) evaluate current rates of oral rehydration therapy use; (b) develop and support a more sustainable strategy of vitamin A supplementation through fortification of sugar with vitamin A; and (c) support training and monitoring activities to qualify at least eight more hospitals as "baby- and mother-friendly" during 1996.

5. UNICEF support has focused on strategies for improving the quality and coverage of preschool and multigrade primary school education in rural areas. This support has included technical assistance, the development and testing of educational and teaching materials, and teacher training. The additional funds requested will be used to finalize, print and widely distribute these educational materials at preschool and primary levels.

6. The situation of children in conflict with the law has already been identified as an area of concern during the current country programme. Additional funds will enable UNICEF to support, in a coordinated fashion, the efforts of concerned groups of civil society and the Government to formulate a plan for children in conflict with the law that is linked to the Code for Children and, more specifically, its penal chapter. UNICEF-supported activities will include technical assistance for developing this plan, consultations with institutions and the identification of community-level activities for supporting rehabilitation services for children. In addition, some funds will be used to support research on emerging problems such as child prostitution and drug abuse.

7. The planning and social policy support programme has been instrumental in sensitizing and advocating with policy makers on the needs and rights of children as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the

national programme of action (NPA) for children. Through this programme, support has been provided for monitoring the mid-decade goals and other social indicators. For example, in collaboration with national authorities and other United Nations agencies, support was provided for a study on poverty and standards of living.

8. National elections are scheduled to be held in 1996. Social mobilization activities will aim to place the needs of children on the political agenda and seek the commitment of candidates to the Presidency and the National Assembly to the achievement of the NPA goals for children and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additional funds will be used for distributing the results of the most recent situation analysis of Nicaraguan children and promoting public meetings to discuss these findings.

Annual funding requirements

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Current programme cycle	Approved general resources funding a/	Additional funding proposed 1996
1992-1996	730.9	119.1

a/ The amount shown here includes the actual balance carried over from the previous programme cycle.